

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G01N21/88 G01N33/44 C14B1/28

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G01N C14B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

WPI Data, PAJ, EPO-Internal, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	DE 42 16 469 A (DIEHL GMBH & CO) 25 November 1993 (1993-11-25) cited in the application claims 1,3; figure 3	1-3
A	---	17
Y	US 6 157 730 A (WEN WEI ET AL) 5 December 2000 (2000-12-05) column 1, line 13 - line 15 column 2, line 59 - column 4, line 4 column 6, line 49 - line 65 figure 8	1-3
A	---	17
	--- -/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 July 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

06/08/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Krametz, E

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 198 24 304 A (MAASS RUTH) 2 December 1999 (1999-12-02) cited in the application column 1, line 3 - line 4 claims 1,2; figure ---	1-3, 17
A	DE 44 26 783 A (HORST SOMMER RECYCLING) 9 February 1995 (1995-02-09) column 2, line 3 - line 10 figure 2 ---	5,6,15, 16
A	EP 0 704 469 A (BASF AG) 3 April 1996 (1996-04-03) cited in the application page 2, line 3 - line 24 page 2, line 32 - line 36 page 5, line 17 - line 22 -----	6-9,15, 16

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 4216469	A	25-11-1993	DE 4216469 A1	25-11-1993
			IT MI930407 U1	19-11-1993
			IT 1264457 B1	23-09-1996
US 6157730	A	05-12-2000	AU 734329 B2	07-06-2001
			AU 1584797 A	28-08-1997
			WO 9729368 A1	14-08-1997
			EP 0880698 A1	02-12-1998
			NZ 331731 A	27-03-2000
DE 19824304	A	02-12-1999	DE 19824304 A1	02-12-1999
DE 4426783	A	09-02-1995	DE 4426783 A1	09-02-1995
EP 0704469	A	03-04-1996	DE 4434554 A1	04-04-1996
			AT 190328 T	15-03-2000
			CA 2159265 A1	29-03-1996
			DE 59507947 D1	13-04-2000
			EP 0704469 A2	03-04-1996
			JP 8109238 A	30-04-1996